

Water Quality Protection Division



Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Region 6 Update

Subject: **Water Quality Division Update # 40**
 Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Date: June 25, 2010

Reporting Period: June 24, 2010 1300 – June 25, 2010 1300

Forecast

The nearshore oil forecast created by NOAA on 6/24/10 at 2100 CDT for 6/25/10 at 1200 CDT (Figure 1) indicates that the main part of the oil slick will be east of Louisiana. Winds are forecast to be 7-15 knots from the east to east-southeast through the weekend. Models predict a westward current is developing south of the Mississippi Delta which may push the slick westward towards Terrebonne Bay. Shoreline impacts may occur on the barrier islands of Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. With the sustained SE winds, oiled shoreline impacts also threaten Breton Sound, the Chandeleur Islands and the Mississippi Delta.

Monitoring and Assessment

- Continuing to coordinate with the REOC Environmental Unit on the review of incoming water and sediment quality monitoring data, including results from water samples analyzed for dispersants and sediment toxicity testing results.
- Attending regular meetings and calls with Region 4, HQ, & REOC.

Drinking Water

- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen to date.
- EPA Region 6 is providing the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) daily situation report as well as data summaries as they become available.
- EPA Region 6 continues to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.

Data Management – Mapping Efforts

- Updated the Shoreline Coastal Assessment Team (SCAT) and the oiled CWPPRA projects maps (Figures 2 and 3).

NPDES

- Continue to participate in discussions regarding options for addressing the moratorium on drilling as it impacts NPDES Permit GMG290000.
- Participating in discussions on options for disposal/treatment/permitting of oil skimming decant water.
- NPDES Permits and TMDL Branch continues to be available to provide technical assistance as needed.

Coastal Programs

Louisiana Large-Scale Coastal Barrier Plan:

- Dredging and stockpiling material has begun by the Shaw Group, working under contract for the State. Shaw Group's current best case estimate for constructing all six segments is 145 days and 18-20 million cubic yards of material. Several hundred thousand cubic yards of material has been dredged in the reach east of the Mississippi River, resulting in placement of about 1,000 linear feet of sand, though shaping work has not yet commenced. The full State application and the monitoring plan are still under development.
- Ongoing coordination regarding borrow sites and dredging locations in the northern Chandeleur Island reach which might have negative impacts on littoral sediment transport. EPA has recommended that work proceed in compliance with conditions as specified in the Corps permit.
- Results of some sediment testing from three borrow sites are available and have reportedly shown no presence of hydrocarbons or other parameters of concern. EPA coastal staff has not yet reviewed the data but have requested access to a project information website established by Shaw.
- Ongoing discussions with Corps project managers and port staff regarding maintenance of navigation channels, pending decisions by the Corps to reassign dredges to the Louisiana sand berm project. Extensive planning is underway to mobilize hopper and cutterhead dredges from throughout the Gulf, resulting in concern from ports and dredging interests in Galveston, Mobile, and the Calcasieu Ship Channel. Remobilization from the Galveston and Calcasieu projects may have adverse implications for ongoing beneficial use of dredged material to create or enhance coastal habitats. Corps headquarters will make the final decisions dredged reassignment within the next week.

Corps Emergency Authorizations for Coastal Protection Features:

- Staff are provided OW comments consistent with all previous comments on a request to install booms and containment screens across Pass Abel and on a request from Vermilion Parish to place sheet pile along 14 shoreline breaches. Ongoing coordination regarding the rock dikes/barge proposed for Jefferson Parish.
- No new emergency authorization requests have been received for work in R6.

OW Ecological Impact Analyses:

- Ongoing support is being provided to OW and CEQ on the Roadmap for Gulf Coast Ecosystem Sustainability and Resiliency and the several related long-term Gulf restoration planning efforts by the States and the Administration.
- Discussions continue regarding the marsh protection and marsh remediation alternatives and techniques.

Corps Navigation Maintenance Dredging:

- Continued coordination between OW, Region 4, and Region 6 regarding dredged material and ocean dumping sites potentially impacted by the oil spill. Staff is providing OW with historical information on the Region 6 ocean dumping site monitoring and management program.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

- There have been no changes to the list of CWPPRA projects in the vicinity of oil impacted areas since 6/24/10 (Figures 2 and 3).

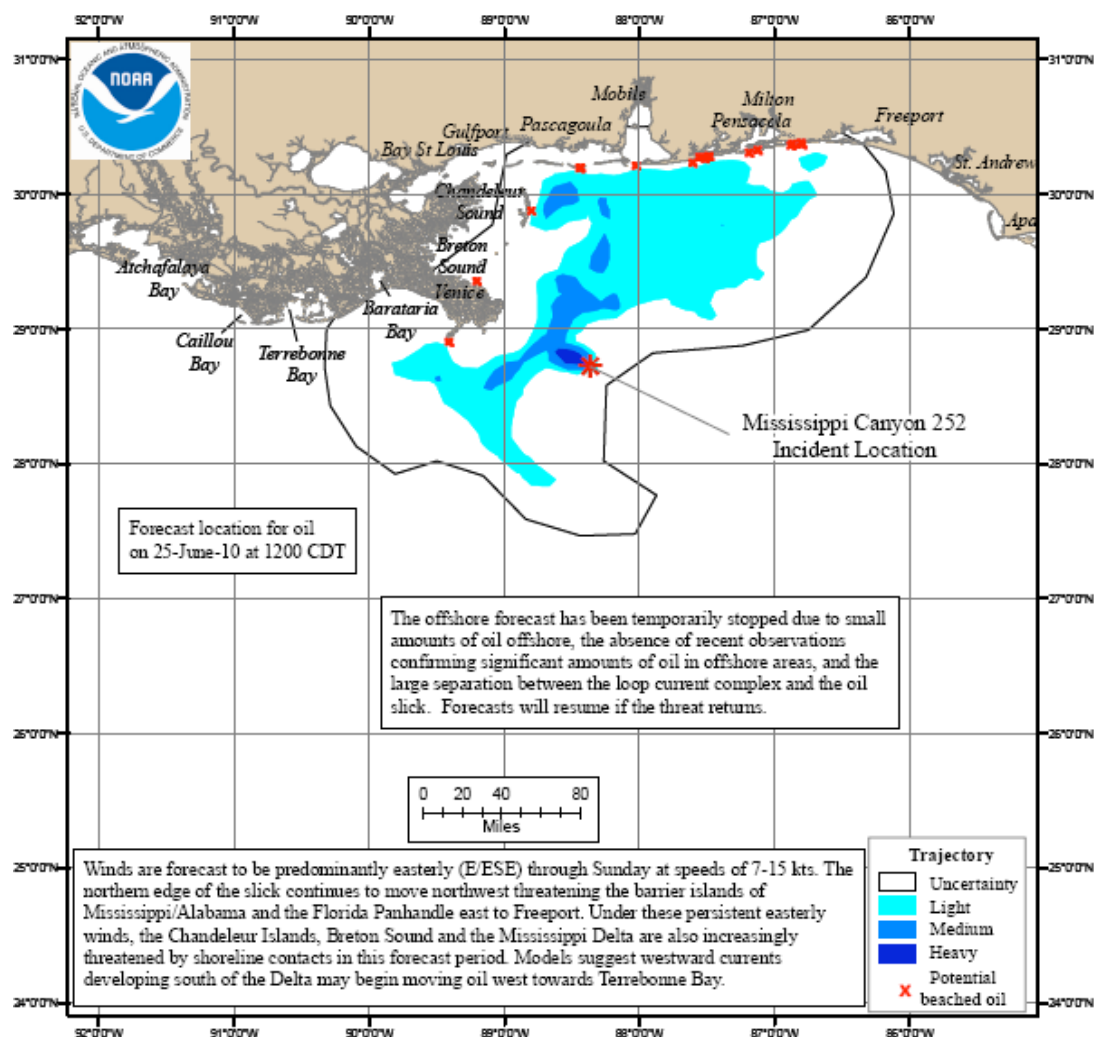


Figure 1 NOAA nearshore oil slick trajectory forecast for 6/25/10.
<http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doctype/2931/53979>

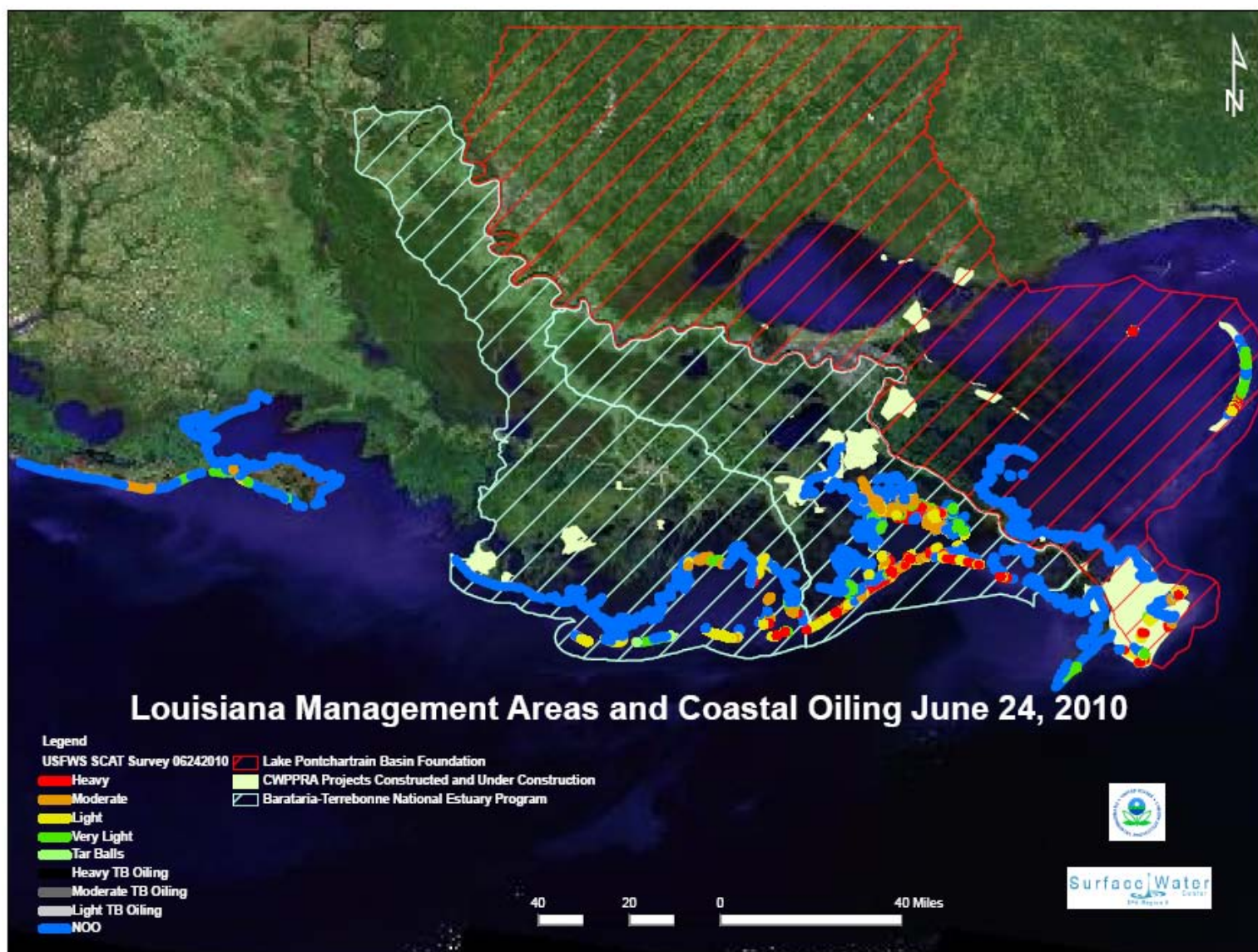


Figure 2 Shoreline impact assessment map including Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, Lake Pontchartrain Foundation and CWPBRA project boundaries

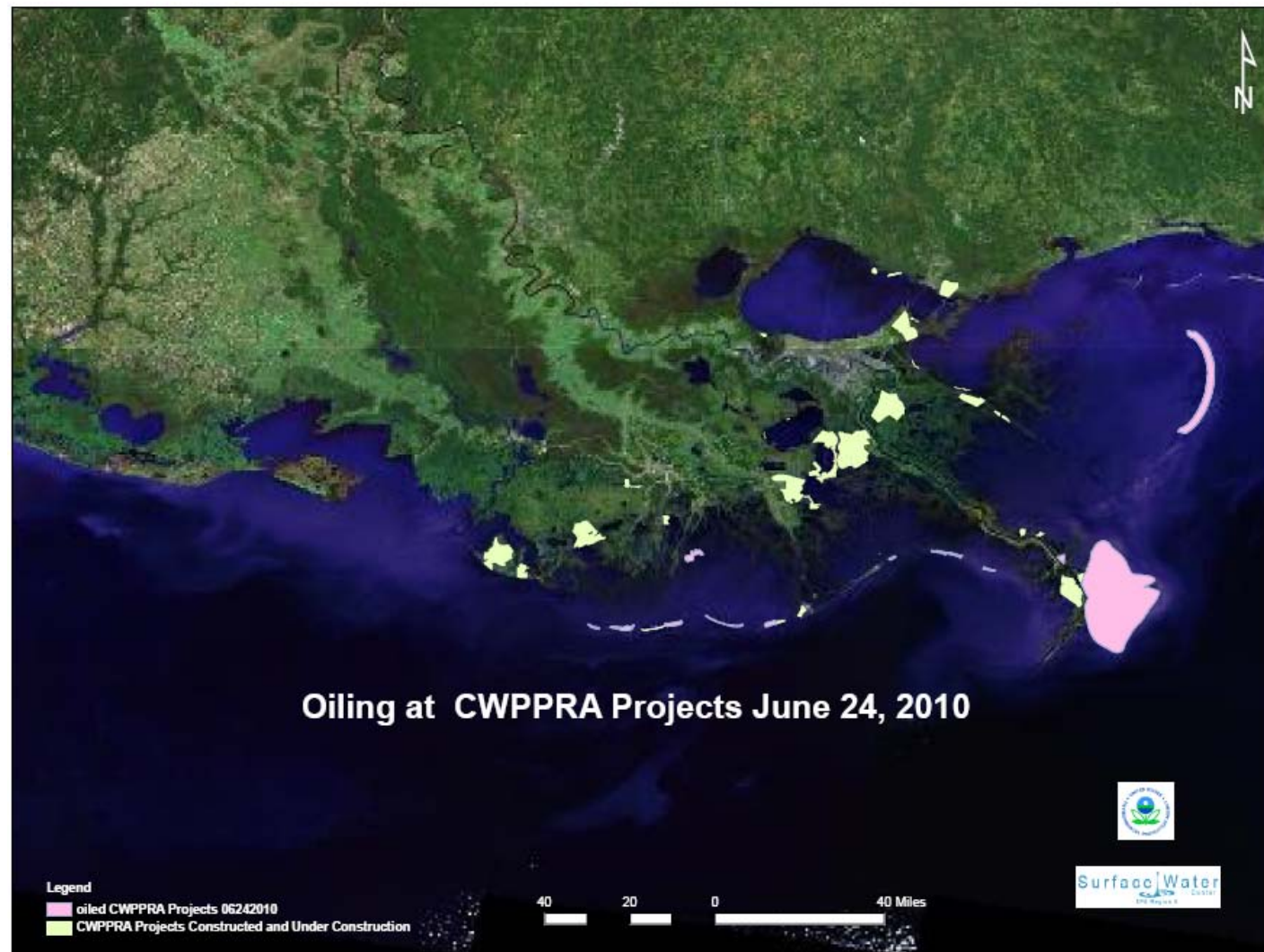


Figure 3 Assessment of CWPPRA projects that may have oiled shoreline impacts.